

Message Text

SECRET

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44

ACTION NEA-07

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6798

SECDEF WASHDC//ISA//PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

SECDEF WASHDC//ISA(SA)/DSAA//PRIORITY

JCS WASHDC//PRIORITY

CDR MICOM RSA AL//PRIORITY

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

DA WASHDC//

S E C R E T KUWAIT 5690

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, KU

SUBJ: KUWAIT IHAWK PROGRAM: AIR DEFENSE ADVISORS

1. PURSUANT TO MY CONVERSATIONS IN STATE AND DEFENSE DURING CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON WEEK OF NOV 29-DEC 3, I MET WITH GOK MINISTER OF DEFENSE SHAIKH SA'AD ABDULLA DEC 8 TO DISCUSS QUESTION OF IHAWK PROGRAM DEFENSE ADVISORS.

2. BEGAN MEETING WITH REFERENCE TO RECENT TURNOVER OF EGYPTIAN AIR DEFENSE ADVISORS SECONDED TO KUWAIT AIR DEFENSE FORCE (KADF) AND THEIR LACK OF QUALIFICATION AND EXPERIENCE ON THE IHAWK SYSTEM. I THEN EXPRESSED TO SHAIKH SA'AD MY CONCERN THAT, BECAUSE OF THIS WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT IHAWK DEPLOYMENT CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED EFFICIENTLY. I HAD RAISED THIS PROBLEM IN WASHINGTON AND HAD ASCERTAINED WILLINGNESS OF AGENCIES CONCERNED TO ARRANGE FOR ASSIGNMENT OF TWO U.S. MILITARY AIR DEFENSE OFFICERS TO EXPAND U.S. LIAISON OFFICE KUWAIT (USLOK) STAFF IN ADDITION TO THE ONE ALREADY PROVIDED FOR THEREIN. THESE WOULD BE OFFICERS EXPERIENCED WITH IHAWK SYSTEM WHO WOULD BE QUALIFIED TO PROVIDE ADVICE ON AIR DEFENSE MATTERS.

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3. SHAIKH SA'AD INDICATED AGREEMENT TO SUCH ASSIGNMENTS. I OBSERVED THAT THE ASSIGNMENT OF THESE AIR DEFENSE OFFICERS WOULD ALSO HELP US AVOID A LEGAL PROBLEM WHICH PREVENTED US FROM RELEASING CLASSIFIED DATA TO THIRD COUNTRY NATIONALS WITH WHOSE COUNTRIES WE WOULD NOT RPT NOT HAVE A SECURITY AGREEMENT SIMILAR TO THE ONE IN EFFECT BETWEEN THE U.S. AND KUWAIT (TECHNICAL SECURITY AGREEMENT BETWEEN MOD AND DOD DATED JANUARY 18, 1976). I NOTED THAT IHAWK DEPLOYMENT NOW AT CRITICAL STAGE WITH SITE SELECTION, WHICH REQUIRES USE OF CLASSIFIED DATA, AS NEXT STEP. I STRESSED THAT USG IS COMMITTED TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO INSURE SMOOTH DEPLOYMENT OF IHAWK SYSTEM TO KUWAIT AND WAS THEREFORE WILLING TO MAKE OFFER TO PROVIDE U.S. AIR DEFENSE ADVISORS PROMPTLY.

4. SHAIKH SA'AD REITERATED HIS AGREEMENT TO INCREASE USLOK STAFF TO 22 WITH ASSIGNMENT OF TWO ADDITIONAL U.S. MILITARY AIR DEFENSE ADVISORS. HE SUGGESTED, HOWEVER, THAT THE PROBLEM OF RELEASE OF CLASSIFIED DATA TO THIRD COUNTRY NATIONALS WAS COVERED BY ABOVE MENTIONED TECHNICAL SECURITY AGREEMENT, RECALLING, SOMEWHAT VAGUELY, THAT CLEARANCE WOULD BE GRANTED IF THEY WERE VOUCHERED FOR BY HIS HIGHNESS THE AMIR. I ASSURED SHAIKH SA'AD THAT NO SUCH PROVISION WAS INCLUDED IN TECHNICAL SECURITY AGREEMENT AND, BECAUSE HE SEEMED SOMEWHAT UNCLEAR AS TO ROLE OF EGYPTIAN AIR DEFENSE ADVISORS UNDER THIS AGREEMENT, STRESSED THAT EGYPTIANS COULD NOT BE INVOLVED IN IHAWK PROGRAM IN FUTURE INSOMUCH AS THEY WOULD NOT BE GRANTED ACCESS TO CLASSIFIED IHAWK DATA. SHAIKH SA'AD SAID HE WOULD LOOK INTO THIS MATTER, BUT REPEATED THAT I SHOULD GO AHEAD WITH PROPOSAL TO ASSIGN U.S. AIR DEFENSE ADVISORS.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: REQUEST FORMAL APPROVAL OF ASSIGNMENT OF TWO U.S. MILITARY AIR DEFENSE OFFICERS TO USLOK STAFF WITH EARLY ARRIVAL DATE IN KUWAIT. SPECIFIC QUALIFICATION DESIRED WILL BE COMMUNICATED SEPTTEL.

6. COMMENT: I HOPE THIS PROBLEM WILL NOW BE RESOLVED. SHAIKH SA'AD WAS MOST RESPONSIVE TO SUGGESTION OF ASSIGNMENT OF U.S. AIR DEFENSE ADVISORS. HIS REACTION ON ROLE OF EGYPTIAN AIR DEFENSE ADVISORS WAS LESS CLEAR, BUT I BELIEVE THAT HE DID UNDERSTAND THAT THEY NO LONGER COULD HAVE SPECIFIC ROLE IN
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CONNECTION WITH IHAWK SYSTEM. WHAT THEIR FUTURE ROLE IN TERMS OF KUWAIT AIR DEFENSE WILL BE IS MATTER FOR KUWAIT MOD TO DETERMINE. NOW THAT SUBJECT HAS BEEN AIRED, CHIEF USLOK WILL ALSO TAKE IT UP WITH CHIEF OF DEFENSE STAFF GENERAL MUBARAK TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT EFFECT OF THIS ARRANGEMENT ON EGYPTIAN ADVISORS' IHAWK ROLE IS UNDERSTOOD AT MILITARY LEVEL.
MAESTRONE

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